

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of electronic commerce, comprising establishing a network-based on-line system for ~~[[purchase-and]]~~ sale of ~~[[an-option-or]]~~ futures contract to acquire tickets ~~[[and/or-travel-accommodation]]~~ for a ~~[[contingent]]~~ playoff sporting event should a designated team qualify for the playoff event, wherein a plurality of teams could qualify for said playoff event yet which team is to appear at the playoff event is unknown at the sale of said futures contract, which futures contract is exercisable upon [[the]] occurrence of the [[contingent-event]] designated team qualifying for the playoff event, and futures contracts are offered for sale for each of said tickets for each of said plurality of teams that could, at the time of the offer for sale, qualify appearance at the playoff event.
2. **(Currently Amended)** A system for allowing a user to purchase an option or futures contract for a ticket to a contingent event, comprising a processor operative with a program to
  - (a) Identify tickets for a [[contingent]] playoff sporting event for which a plurality of teams could qualify, and identify said teams that could qualify for said playoff event;
  - (b) For each designated team, enter [[Enter]] bids for [[an-option-or]] a futures contract to purchase the tickets, which contract is exercisable upon occurrence of the [[contingent-event]] designated team qualifying for the playoff event; and
  - (c) Execute the sale of said contracts based on the highest [[rank-the]] bids.
3. **(Currently Amended)** A system of claim 2, wherein the ~~[[contingent]]~~ playoff event is a participant-event.
4. **(Original)** A system of claim 3, wherein the participant-event is a team-round-game.
5. **(Currently Amended)** A system for allowing a user to bid on an option to purchase a ticket to a ~~[[contingent]]~~ playoff sporting event for which a plurality of participants that could qualify, comprising:
  - a database having stored therein an option or futures record having a team field representative of one of said plurality of [[a]] participants being a candidate for participation in the ~~[[contingent]]~~ playoff event, an event field representative of the ~~[[sporting]]~~ playoff event, and a value field representative of a value of a minimum winning bid to purchase an option or future for a ticket for the sporting event on the occurrence of a specified participant qualifying to participate in the contingent event; and
  - a server, in connection with said database, and capable of processing a bid representative of a request to purchase the option or future, and being capable of processing said bid and said option or futures record to adjust the minimum winning bid value and to allocate an option or futures contract to the winning bid.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A system for allowing a remote user to purchase, over a distributed computer network, an option or futures contract for a ticket to a ~~[[contingent]]~~ playoff sporting event for which a plurality of teams could qualify, which system comprises a host server operative with a program including
  - (i) an event database connected in communication with said host server, said database including ticket identifiers each representative of a ticket for a contingent participant-event,

- (ii) an option or futures bid database in communication with said host server, said option or futures bid database including allocation fields representative of an option or futures bid for each of said plurality of teams for each of said tickets, and
- (iii) an interface manager implemented on said server and in communication with said databases;

wherein said interface manager processes option or futures bids from remote users to determine whether to accept the option or futures bid and to update the allocation field.

- 7. **(Original)** A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-event identifiers include team-round-game identifiers.
- 8. **(Withdrawn)** A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-event identifiers include athlete-game identifiers.
- 9. **(Withdrawn)** A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-event identifiers include entertainer-event identifiers.
- 10. **(Withdrawn)** A system for allowing a user to purchase an option or futures contract for goods or services related to a contingent ticketed event, comprising a processor operative with a program to
  - (a) Identify goods or services related to a contingent ticketed event;
  - (b) Enter bids for an option or futures contract to purchase the goods or services;and
  - (c) rank the bids.
- 11. **(Withdrawn)** A system of claim 10, wherein the contingent ticketed event is the presence of a team in a sports event.
- 12. **(Withdrawn)** A system of claim 10, wherein the contingent ticketed event is the presence of an athlete in a sporting event.
- 13. **(Withdrawn)** A system of claim 10, wherein the goods or services are at least one of a sporting event ticket, an airline ticket, a charter airline reservation, a hotel reservation, a rental car reservation, a restaurant reservation, a bus ticket, a train ticket, and a ticket or reservation to an attraction in the locale of the contingent ticketed event.
- 14. **(New)** A system of claim 2, wherein the playoff event is a playoff game for a sport selected from the group consisting of baseball, football, basketball, soccer and hockey.

#### REMARKS

#### The Amended Claims Comply with 35 USC §112

The amendments are believed to obviate the grounds for rejection of the claims under 35 USC §112 paragraph Two.